

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, since November is National Diabetes Awareness Month, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage people to be screened for this disease and to learn more about the prevention and the treatment of this disease.

Approximately 16 million people in the United States have diabetes, although about 5 million of those people do not even know they have it. Sadly, this is a disease that disproportionately affects minority groups and individuals who are 65 years or older. African Americans are 1.7 times more often having diabetes than Caucasians. And Hispanics are almost twice as likely to have diabetes than non-Hispanic whites; 6.3 million people with diabetes are 65 years of age or older.

According to the American Diabetes Association, total health care costs incurred by people with diabetes for the year 1997 was \$98 billion. At present there is no method to prevent or cure diabetes, but there are several things that we can do as legislators and individuals. We can promote research that includes minority populations and people over 65 years of age. These groups are rapidly-growing segments of our population, and we should do this research.

BULLENTINI COMFORT QUILTS PROJECT

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, September 11 of course was a day of tragedy where thousands of Americans lost their lives, and some of the youngest victims of this heinous attack were the children who lost one or both parents in the disaster. Today, I am proud to announce that a resident of Reno, Nevada, is spearheading a project to benefit these children facing a world without one, either a mother or a father from this disaster.

Ms. Debby Bullentini, a former fifth grade teacher, has begun the Comfort Quilts Project, a project to provide the children with a special hand-made quilt made up of patches from all over the country. Every Member of this Chamber can help by signing an individual patch for the quilts which will be distributed to the 10 to 15,000 children who lost one or both parents on September 11.

I have encouraged every Member of Congress to visit any office or call at 100 Cannon and take a few minutes to sign a patch like this one to show that we do care about these children, and I wish we could do more to ease the pain of these children who are the youngest victims of this terrorist attack.

PASSING A HATE CRIMES BILL

(Ms. LOFGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, it is time to pass a hate crimes bill. Some people confuse hate crimes with the idea that some victims are worthier than others. What that misses is the fact that when there is a hate crime there is more than one victim: the individual who has been assaulted and the group that that victim belongs to.

We know that when there is a hate crime the intent is to intimidate, frighten, and alarm people who share the same trait as the victim, whether it is their religion or some other trait. So we need to make sure that we protect Americans against hate crimes.

I am a member of the Committee on the Judiciary with jurisdiction over this bill which I am a co-sponsor of. We are not even meeting today. We should use our time to enhance law enforcement to protect Americans to pass a strong hate crimes bill.

ENACTING COMMONSENSE ECONOMIC STIMULUS POLICIES

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday's front page of the Wall Street Journal reads like this: "The U.S. fell into a recession in March for the first time in a decade."

By historical standards, the current contraction is unusual. Despite some optimism that the recession has run its course, turmoil in the commodity markets could indicate that a recovery will not arrive until summer at best, at best.

If the American economy has been in a recession since March, it is obvious the American people need help now. We cannot wait until next summer for a turnaround.

History has shown that providing tax relief is a better way to jump-start the economy than increasing spending. By enacting some commonsense stimulus policies, we can get our economy back on track.

Our House-passed tax relief bill does just that. More tax relief would be great news for American families, American companies, and the American economy. Our friends at the other end of the Capitol need to quit stalling, get in gear and pass tax relief now. America will say thank you.

CHINA'S TWO-TIMING OF AMERICA

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, reports say that China is two-timing Uncle Sam big time. With one hand China slaps Uncle Sam on the back and wishes us well in Afghanistan. With the other hand China sells missiles and weapons to Iran and Iraq and continues to funnel support under the table to the Taliban. Bottom line, China continues to aid and abet our enemies.

Beam me up.

I yield back the fact that the Taliban are a fly on our face, but China is a dragon eating our assets. Think about that.

PASS AN ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, let me associate myself with the comments from the gentleman of Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) urging the Senate to bring about an economic stimulus package.

We passed over 6 weeks ago a very important bill that would bring real tax relief to American families. Now, maybe the other Chamber's idea of a stimulus is Metamucil, but we need more than a dose of fiber to get this economy moving. I urge them based on the numbers we saw yesterday, rising unemployment, lower consumer confidence, today's Wall Street opening again declining, based on the fact that there is little confidence in this economy, we could make a dramatic step forward by bringing the House and Senate together and conferring this very important economic stimulus bill, send it to the President for signature, and get the economy moving for the holiday season.

PASSING A RESPONSIBLE STIMULUS PACKAGE FOR AMERICAN WORKERS

(Mr. HINOJOSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my growing concern for the decaying state of our Nation's economy. Yesterday, leading economists confirmed what 7 million laid-off workers already know: our Nation is in a recession for the first time this decade.

If we are to truly address this country's growing economic crunch, any economic stimulus legislation passed by Congress must include more than corporate tax breaks for large and already profitable companies.

A responsible stimulus package that would benefit every American must include provisions that will invest in American workers, assist small and medium businesses, and foster fiscal responsibility. These ends can be achieved by creating a bill that combines tax relief with critical funding for ready-to-go construction projects, including airport security and school modernization.

This is the only way to ensure that workers are put to work and businesses stay in business.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this body make a pledge to act responsibly in the coming days and work with the Senate